plants in the State of Rajasthan with a total bottling capacity of 452 Thousand Metric Tonnes Per Annum (TMTPA). LPG Bottling plants are set up by OMCs on the basis of techno-economic feasibility after taking into considerationthe demand potential of packed LPG of the area. At present, OMCs have no plan to set up new LPG bottling plants in the State of Rajasthan as the available bottling capacity is adequate to meet the LPG demand of their customers in the State.

(b) OMCs have reported that the area covered by one LPG bottling plant is generally governed by following factors:

(i) Proximity to bulk LPG source,

(ii) Proximity to markets,

(iii) Capacity of bottling plant,

(iv) Bulk/packed transportation cost.

(v) Operating cost of bottling plant.

Most of the markets covered by the bottling plants in Rajasthan are within a radius of 200 to 300 Kms.

Adulteration in petrol and diesel

4396. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that adulteration of petrol and diesel is taking place on a very large scale in the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken to check the same; and

(c) the total loss caused to the exchequer in the past three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) The possibility of adulteration of petrol/diesel by some unscrupulous elements cannot be ruled out due to huge price difference between petrol/diesel and various adulterants available in the market and the easy miscibility of these products with petrol/diesel.

While, as per a recent study conducted by the National Council of Applied Economic Research to assess the genuine demand and requirement of kerosene, siphoning off of kerosene from PDS to non-household

use is estimated at 18.1 per cent of total sale of PDS kerosene, no estimation of loss to the exchequer on account of adulteration in petrol and diesel is available.

To check adulteration in auto fuels and diversion of PDS kerosene, Government has asked Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to take various steps to contain the menace of adulteration:—

(i) Under the Control Orders issued by the Government to prevent fuel adulteration, under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, State Governments are empowered to take action against those indulging in adulteration. Government have requested the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to take steps to control adulteration.

(ii) OMCs undertake regular and surprise inspections of Retail Outlets and also take action under Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG) and Dealership Agreements against those indulging in adulteration and malpractices. MDG provide for termination of dealership in cases of adulteration being established.

(iii) Government has taken the initiatives to expedite the installation of Global Positioning System (GPS) to monitor the movement of tank trucks.

(iv) OMCs have introduced new tamper proof tank-truck locking system to prevent en-route adulteration by transporters.

(v) Keeping in view the misuse/diversion of SKO for adulteration, the import of SKO by private parties has been canalized through OMCs.

(vi) As advised by the Government, Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have created a separate wing to report to a Director other than Director (Marketing), which will oversee and monitor all activities and operations to curb adulteration and specify norms and guidelines in this regard.

In order to check adulteration the Government has recently taken a number of new initiatives which are given in the Statement.

Statement

Details Of New Initiaves Taken To Check Adulteration Of Petrol/ Diesel And Streamlining Pds Kerosene Distribution

Checking adulteration is a continuous process and the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas has been reviewing steps taken to curb adulteration from time to time. In the process, several technological and institutional measures have been taken to contain adulteration. The recent steps taken by the Ministry are summerized below.

1. Automation of Retail Outlets: In order to monitor the activities at retail outlets by adopting the latest technological improvements, automation of retail outlets is being implemented. MOP&NG has directed the oil marketing companies to complete automation of retail outlets selling more than 200 KL per month.

2. Third Party Certification of Retail Outlets: OMCs have been directed to complete third party certification of all the retail outlets selling more than 100 KL per month.

3. Monitoring of movement of Tank Trucks through Global Positioning System (GPS): In order to prevent adulteration during transportation, OMCs have been directed to install GPS for complete monitoring of the movement of all the company owned/dealer owned/ contractor owned tank trucks.

4. Marker System in Kerosene: To check adulteration in auto fuels, Government has asked public sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to take various steps, including introduction of marker in adulterants. OMCs have commenced introduction of marker in kerosene on all India basis with effect from 1.10.2006. Under the new system, Market is being put in kerosene in all depots. This system heralds the introduction of world class technology to curb and eventually eliminate the menance of adulteration of transportation fuels along the supply chain. With the marker's presence, aduteration even with very low levels of kerosene can be detected. MS/HSD Control Order, 2005 SKO Control Order, 1993 and MDG 2005 have been amended for making provision regarding introduction of marker system in Kerosene to check adulteration. A committee has been set up in the Ministry to monitor the progress of the marker system. Oil Marketing Companies in the Private Sector have also been

simultaneously asked to introduce marker in Kerosene as is being done by Public Sector OMCs.

5. Revising the Marketing Discipline Guidelines: The Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG) under which the oil marketing companies take penal actions against the erring dealers have been revised during August 2005 making the penal actions more stringent. As per MDG, 2005, a dealership would be terminated in the first instance of adulteration itself.

6. Jan Kerosene Pariyojna: To streamline the PDS Kerosene distribution system and contain diversion of kerosene for adulteration and other unauthorized usages, Jan Kerosene Pariyojna (JKP) had been launched initially for a period of 6 months on a pilot basis in 414 blocks with effect from 2.10.2005. The Pilot scheme has been further extended upto 30.6.2007.

7. Smart Card Scheme: With the objective of ensuring that the benefit of the subsidy reaches the targeted consumers in an efficient and cost-effective manner and to prevent any leakages, this Ministry has proposed introduction of Smart Card System for distribution of PDS kerosene. The scheme is proposed to be introduced initially on an experimental basis. In the Pilot project, subsidized kerosene through Smart Card is proposed to be available to BPL families while all other ration card holders would be given non-subsidized kerosene. Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) would ensure adequate availability of PDS as well as non-subsidized kerosene during the entire period of implementation of the Pilot.

Bio-fuel from sweet corn

4397. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is planning to explore the possibility of extracting bio-fuel from sweet corn on the line of Jatropha fuel; and

(b) if so, the steps Government have taken to explore the possibility if extracting bio-fuel from sweet corn and to what extent the sweet corn bio-fuel can help the needs of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Ministry of New and